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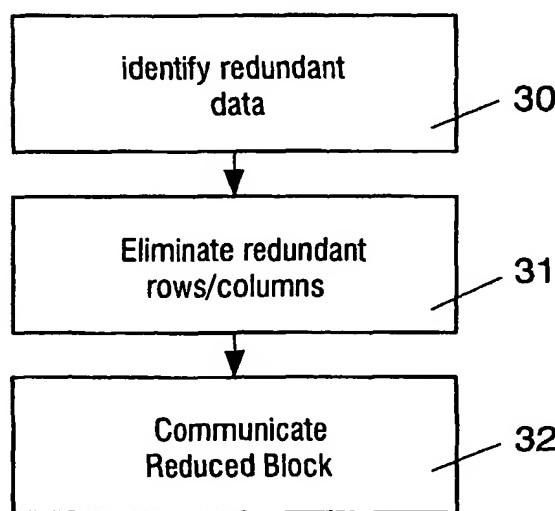
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(54) Title: A METHOD OF COMMUNICATING DATA WITHIN A CODER



(57) **Abstract:** Transform based coders are frequently used in digital signal processing. The present invention relates to a method of communicating at least one block of data from a first functional element (3; 4; 7; 12; 14) within a transform based coder (1) or decoder (10) to a second functional element (4; 5; 7; 8; 14; 15) within the coder or decoder, where the block of data comprises a row-column structure of data coefficients. A significant communication workload occurs between individual elements of the coders and decoders. The present invention seeks to reduce this workload by making an effort to communicate only non-zero coefficients within a cartesian bounding box of a block between various functional units in a decoding or encoding scheme by reducing the size of the at least one block of data to produce a reduced size data block by elimination (31) of one or more rows and/or columns of substantially zero valued coefficients, and communicating (32) the reduced size data block from the first functional element to the second functional element.